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Cut Off Oil Castro Falls, Keating Says

By Ernest B. Vaccaro
Associated Press

Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.) said yesterday that the Communist regime of Premier Fidel Castro in Cuba would topple within 60 days if all shipments of petroleum products were cut off.

Keating urged President Kennedy to use this last-ditch tactic in cooperation with Allied nations if less drastic steps failed.

Keating, in a program taped for radio-television use in the Midwest with Sen. Jack Miller (R-Iowa), agreed with the findings of a Senate investigating group that Soviet ballistic missiles and other offensive weapons may be hidden in the thousands of caves on the nearby island.

Both Republican Senators said they also agreed that the only certain way of knowing whether all Russian bombers and missiles had been pulled out, as promised by Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, would be on-site inspections in Cuba.

The Senate Armed Services Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee recently reported that missiles and bombers may be concealed in Cuban caves.

"I think the greatest threat of Cuba is the export of subversion, terrorism and gangsterism to other Latin American countries," Keating said, adding that this could lead "to the creation of a Soviet Venezuela, a Soviet Haiti, Soviet Brazil, and a Soviet this, that or other."

The New York Senator said he had recommended a program "of economic pressures" to the President in personal conferences with Director John A. McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency.

These should be applied to the Soviet Union as well as Cuba, Keating said, "because the problem in Cuba is not Castro but Khrushchev."

Such a program would require close cooperation of free nations in both the Organization of American States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he said.

"In getting this cooperation it is very important that we do not downgrade the threat," Keating said.

"I have never advocated military action," he said, adding that if economic pressures against Cuba should fail then the "President must seriously consider the reimposition of a quarantine of military goods coming into Cuba; and if that doesn't work, an imposition of a quarantine on petroleum products, which would, unquestionably, bring Cuba to a halt, economically, in a matter of, let's say, 60 days."

Miller said Democrats and Republicans in Congress are agreed "that Cuba shall not exist as a base for the subversion and overthrow of Latin American nations."

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